

Message Text

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SUBJECT: COOPER-HONECKER MEETING, FEBRUARY 27, 1975 - PRESS RELEASES

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT OF A RELEASE ON THE COOPER-HONECKER MEETING RECEIVED BY TELEPHONE FROM THE MFS PRESS SECTION. A RELEASE OF SIMILAR CONTENT IS OUT ON THE ADN WIRE SERVICE, BUT IS NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY.

"THE FIRST SECRETARY OF THE SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY OF THE GDR, ERICH HONECKER, RECEIVED THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN THE GDR, JOHN SHERMAN COOPER, TODAY FOR A FRIENDLY TALK.

"IN THE TALK, SECRETARY HONECKER THANKED AMBASSADOR COOPER FOR THE GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT FORD AND RECIPROCATED THEM.

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"SECRETARY HONECKER DESCRIBED THE ESTABLISHMENT

OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND THE GDR
AS AN IMPORTANT EVENT CONTRIBUTING TO WORLD PEACE
AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD.

"HE WENT ON TO STATE THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF
FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO POWERS CONSTITUTED
AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD RELAXATION OF TENSIONS IN
EUROPE.

"HE GREETED PRESIDENT FORD'S READINESS TO
CONTRIBUTE TO A RAPID CONCLUSION OF THE CSCE TALKS
AND EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION
OF THE CSCE CONFERENCE WOULD HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT
ON OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD.

"AMBASSADOR COOPER EMPHASIZED HIS WILLINGNESS,
AS WELL AS THAT OF THE US GOVERNMENT TO CONTRIBUTE
TO A MAY-SIDED EVOLUTION OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH
THE GDR.

"SECRETARY HONECKER AND AMBASSADOR COOPER AGREED
THAT A BROADENING OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GDR AND US IS
IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH STATES AND IN THE INTEREST
OF THE EVOLUTION OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE.

"DR. HORST GRUNERT, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER,
WAS PRESENT AT THE SESSION."

2. FOLLOWING IS A RELEASE PREPARED BY THE AMBASSADOR
FOR USE IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA INQUIRIES:

"THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
JOHN SHERMAN COOPER, SAID THAT HE HAD WELCOMED THE
OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH THE FIRST SECRETARY OF THE
SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC, ERICK HONECKER, AND THAT THEIR TALK OF ONE
HOUR HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTIVE AND CORDIAL.

"IT WAS AGREED THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS
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BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE GDR WAS AN IMPORTANT STEP
IN THE EVOLUTION AND MAINTENANCE OF DETENTE.

"FIRST SECRETARY HONECKER EXPRESSED HIS STRONG
DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GDR AND THE
UNITED STATES. AMBASSADOR COOPER ASSURED THE FIRST SECRETARY
THAT PRESIDENT FORD AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED
STATES SHARED THE SAME OBJECTIVES. THEY DISCUSSED

ALSO STEPS WHICH COULD ASSIST IN THE STRENGTHENING
OF THEIR RELATIONS AND EXTENDED TO EACH OTHER THE
GOOD WILL OF THE GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLES OF THEIR
COUNTRIES."

END UNCLASSIFIED

3. COMMENT: THE AMBASSADOR DID NOT MAKE REFERENCE
TO THE TERM "PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE," WHICH APPEARS
IN THE GDR RELEASE NOR WAS "SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION"
DISCUSSED. COOPER

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